

REMARKS

Discussion of Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 12, and 17 have been amended to recite the invention in language more closely conforming to the specification and drawings. No new matter has been added.

Claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, and 19 have been amended solely to comply with formal requirements, primarily to more closely comply with antecedent basis requirements.

The application is now believed to be in a condition for allowance, and an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned for any reason that would advance the application to issuance.

DATED this 16th day of January, 2004.

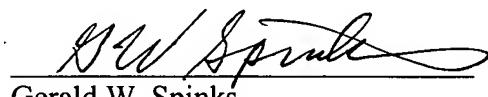
Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendments, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450, on this the 16th day of January, 2004.



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